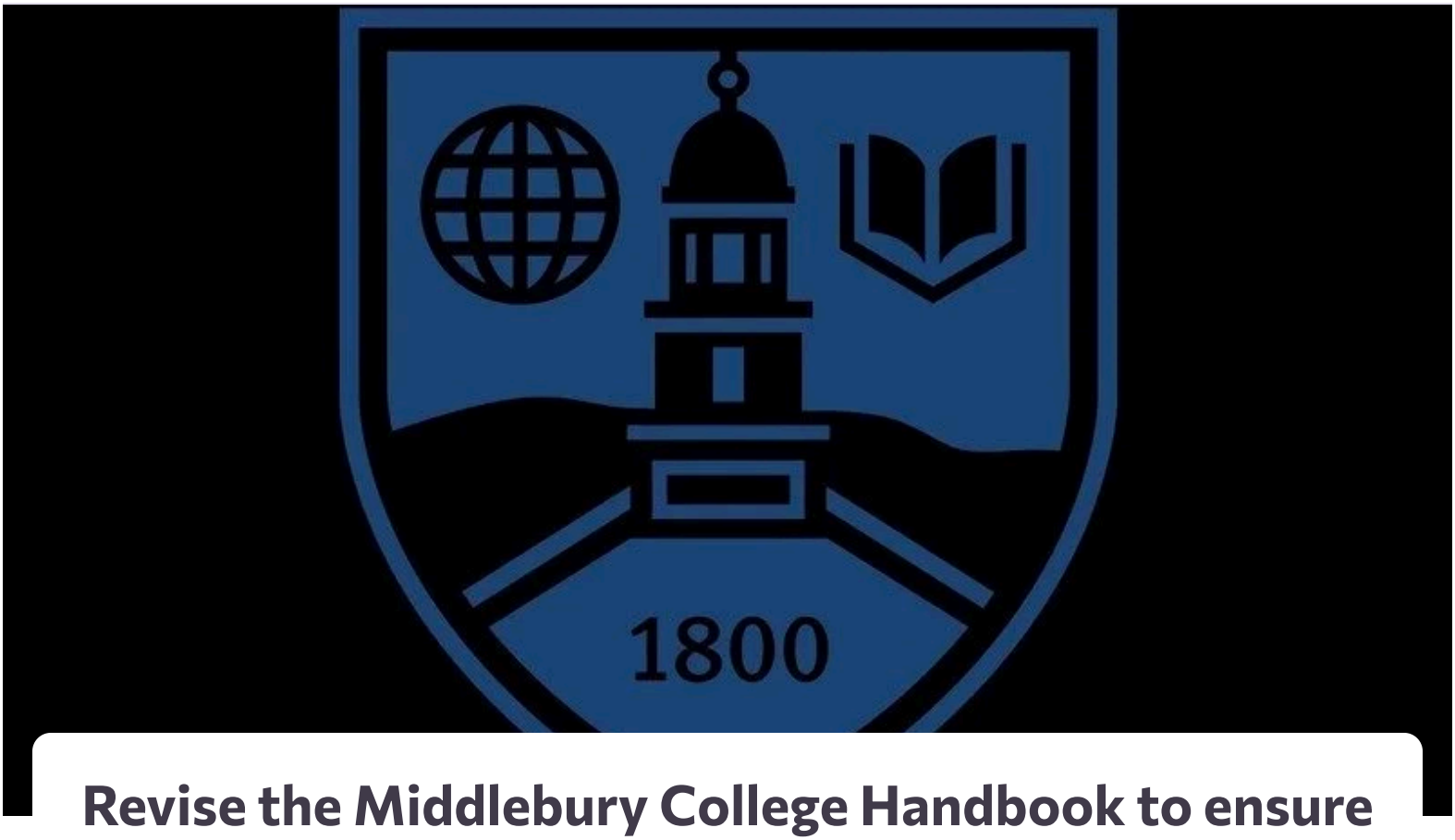

Revise the Middlebury College Handbook to ensure robust protections for free speech

Sign petition

22

Verified signatures

Let's get to 25 signatures!

Petitions with 1,000+ supporters are 5x more likely to win!

Decision Maker: Middlebury College Administration

The Issue

The administration's inconsistent and incoherent execution of protest policy raises an alarm: a drift toward institutionalized authoritarianism and a direct strike against the ethos of our College; submission and surrender to the values of the Trump Administration. Sharing information is the most basic foundation of our institution. As students, we constantly share information in our classes, through clubs and organizations, and on online platforms. While our Open Expression policy commits to these fundamental rights, our college administrators are not.

I kindly ask for your signature in the following revisions to the student handbook:

1. Repeal the three-week advanced notice to Events Management for protests/demonstration. This timeline effectively restricts spontaneous demonstrations and conflicts with the Open Expression Policy.
2. Clarify that activities like leafleting or chalking by individuals are forms of communication, not organized protests, and should not require prior registration. Since only groups can register events, this ambiguity exposes individuals to arbitrary disciplinary action if their expression is retroactively labeled a "non-registered protest."
3. Revoke the mandate that students present identification upon request. Current policy hypocritically does not require officials to identify themselves first. In situations where officers are masked or unidentified, refusal to comply is a reasonable act of self-protection, not disrespect. The current language, which threatens disciplinary action for noncompliance, fosters an unnecessarily authoritarian atmosphere and enables arbitrary enforcement.

For further information, please read the Op-Ed I published on the Campus:

Support now

Sign petition

Ryan Ulen
Petition Starter

Media inquiries

The Decision Makers

Middlebury College Administration

Awaiting response

Supporter Voices

Featured Comments

Josh, Chicago
50 minutes ago

"We are already living through fascistic times; Middlebury admin, you don't need to contribute to this with your own internal policies."

0 Likes Report

Support now